

strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Des-tiny Bean for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 26th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 812. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 812.

U.F. STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RESOLU- TION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Florida's Student Body Government, and to submit for the record their resolution supporting the U.S. commitment to a negotiated settlement of Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The University of Florida Student Government was established in 1909, and represents the interests of the student body. As representatives for the students of the University of Florida, this student government body has put forth Resolution 2011-138, which calls for the continuation of peaceful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to oppose any attempt seeking a unilateral declaration of statehood from the United Nations.

The students of the University of Florida hereby resolve:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE UNILATERAL PALESTINIAN EFFORTS OF DECLARING INDEPENDENCE IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

Whereas, a true and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people can only be achieved through direct negotiations between two legitimate parties and the acceptance of Israel's right to exist; and

Whereas, direct negotiations between two legitimate parties to ensure an agreement that acknowledges both historical territorial claims to land while also taking into account the current demographic and security realities; and

Whereas, Hamas, an organization responsible for the death of hundreds of Israeli and American civilians, has been designated by the United States State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and is in control of the Gaza strip; and

Whereas, Hamas has held merger talks with the Palestinian Authority and continues to forcefully reject the possibility of peace with Israel, and

Whereas, refusing to come to the table and negotiate despite President Obama's direct request for a meeting following the Israeli nine month settlement freeze, the Palestinian Authority is preventing any constructive dialogue from taking place that could eventually lead to the formation of a Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the Palestinian Authority attempting to gain full membership at the United Nations through a unilateral declaration of statehood is counterproductive to the peace process; and

Whereas, a poll done by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion showed that eighty-three percent of Palestinians cited job creation as the most pressing issue, with only four percent citing UN recognition of Palestinian statehood as the most important; and

Whereas, of that same poll only forty percent of Palestinians think that the UN vote will actually help to bring about an independent Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the United States passed H. Res 268 and S. Bill 185 calling on the Administration to block the Palestinian Authority's efforts at the United Nations, and to cut foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority in the event of a unilateral declaration, and

Whereas, the Obama administration has publicly criticized the Palestinian Authority's push for an unsustainable unilateral declaration, then be it

Resolved That the University of Florida Student Senate, on behalf of the students of the University of Florida, join our elected officials in support of a peaceful, two-state solution through direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis; and be it further

Resolved That the students of the University of Florida support a halt to any efforts for a unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations and that the Palestinian Authority terminates its association with Hamas, so that it may be considered a legitimate partner for peace.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY 1ST LT. ASHLEY I. WHITE STUMPF

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ashley I. White Stumpf—a member of the North Carolina National Guard's 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. She was attached to a Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan when she and two Army Rangers were killed as enemy forces attacked her unit with an improvised explosive device.

Ashley was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer after receiving a commission from Kent State University in 2009. After completing both the medical services officer basic course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the U.S. Army basic airborne course at Fort Benning, Georgia, she volunteered to become a member of a new tactical force called Cultural Support Teams.

Cultural Support Teams highlight the importance and necessity of women on the battlefield today. Their primary task is to engage the female population in ways that would be culturally inappropriate if performed by a male service member. As a member of only the

second class of women to enter this program, Ashley was a trail-blazer. Cultural Support Team members assist in a variety of functions in Afghanistan, including medical programs, searches and seizures, humanitarian assistance, and civil-military operations. In support of these special Special Operations units, Ashley exposed herself to danger on a regular basis and has now become the first casualty in what the Army says is a new and vital wartime attempt to gain the trust of Afghan women. She will be remembered for her sacrifice for years to come.

Ashley's awards and decorations are many and include the Parachutist Badge, the Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. She will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Lt. Col. David Hodne stated it well when he said, "Ashley was an incredibly talented officer and teammate who lost her life while committed to making a difference in our effort in Afghanistan. She demonstrated a level of quiet courage that set the example for others to follow, and we will never forget her sacrifice. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers."

A native of Alliance, Ohio, Ms. White Stumpf is survived by her husband Cpt. Jason Stumpf of Raeford, N.C., her parents Robert and Deborah White, twin sister Brittney and brother Josh, all of Alliance. Loved by friends, family and citizens across this nation, Ashley will remain a shining example of selfless sacrifice.

I honor Ashley's life, her service, and her memory. She will surely be missed by many, but she—along with all of our fallen heroes—will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816 and 817, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

DEAN ROGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dean Rogers for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dean Rogers is a 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dean Rogers is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dean Rogers for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who are traveling to Washington, D.C. today with Honor Flight Chicago, a program who provides as many World War II veterans as possible the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C., a memorial that was built to honor their courage and service.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen traveling here today answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Marvin Leroy Abramson, Louis Alejandro, Earl Allen, Robert Avidson, Thomas Atchison, Julio A. Battistoni, Birgie Dean Bergeson, Charles S. Bergh, Earl F. Bishop, Stanley J. Biskup, Ralph Blattner, Marjorie H. Bobzin, William J. Bolt, Lloyd Bowman, Seymour Brodsky, Edward V. Bucaro, Norman E. Burbury, Julius Burrell, Anthony Candice, William J. Christian, Vernon Ciske, Guy Colletti, Irving Covitt, Louis Czyzewski, Robert K. Dean, Walter J. Dobosz, Edward L. Effertz, Vincent J. Fiduccia, Arthur E. Fosslund, Paul J. Gerjol, Wilbert Gerrish, Louis Guthmann, Arthur J. Habel, Gerald Hastings, Roscoe Hastings, Edward C. Hausknecht Jr., Albert R. Heminger, Edward J. Heywood, William R. Higgins, Gerald Hulslander, Diderick M. Iversen, Robert Jenkins, Alfred Jordi Jr., Francis Kaduk, Albert Komar, John Kotowski, Robert Bernhardt Krueger, Walter C. Kuhn, Herbert J. Lustig, George Mahony, James E. McShane, William Merrill, Harold Milling, Edwin John Misniak, Charles W. Moffett, Aldo J. Mob, Mary C. Nolan, Fulton Nolen Sr., Joseph R. Pacholski, Jerome Pierce, Joseph P. Pomykala, Frank N. Popp, Frederick Popper, Richard Priske, Robert Prorok, Eugene G. Qualizza, John Radke, Fred V. Randazzo, Kenneth L. Rapalee, Raymond F. Reece, William G. Rieker, John L. Ritchie, Eugene V. Rodarte, Shirley Marie Roeing, Richard Sven Roeing, Sam A. Scardino, Louis C. Seno, Vincent James Serio, Lawrence Smith, Samuel Stookal, Edward Sulkowski, Clarence F. Talentowski, Herbert L. Tatroe, Hilbert O.

Teske, George H. Thompson, Gilbert T. Vinzani, George H. Vozari, Barbara Q. Watson, Harold E. Weir, Franklin C. Wellhausen, John P. Whitbread, Richard Wolff, Berlin W. Wyman, Elmo R. Younger, Michael Yurchak, Leonard F. Zaehler, Walter Ziolkowski.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,971,183,021,178.32.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,333,405,274,884.52 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SALUTING THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee. An organization dedicated to consumer protection, business standards, and community involvement, the Bureau has seen record growth and become a pillar in our great city of Nashville.

In October of 1961, the Bureau opened its doors with 510 members. During the 1960s, it handled nearly 80,000 service requests. After 5 decades of expansion and growth, the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee now has 5,000 members. In 2011, the Bureau will top 3 million requests with 98 percent of all services delivered via the Internet.

The Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee has a solid reputation for both helping the consumer and raising the standards of business. The Bureau continually encourages businesses to strive for the highest and most ethical standards in commerce. Local businesses aspire to be recipients of the highly coveted "Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics."

Although its primary focus is to direct consumers to businesses they can trust, the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee has become a community partner and a good corporate citizen. The Bureau has invested in higher education awarding scholarships to deserving high schools students through the "Students of Integrity" program and partners with many other nonprofits in community events throughout the area.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to salute the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee for its 50 years of dedicated service to our citizens and our community, and for promoting higher ethical standards in business.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE RICARDO M. URBINA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Judge Ricardo M. Urbina, the first Latino appointed to the bench in the District of Columbia. President Ronald Reagan nominated Judge Urbina for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1981, and President Bill Clinton nominated him for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 1994. Both before and after these path-breaking judicial appointments, Judge Urbina has been recognized by his peers, his city, and many organizations for his many contributions to the law and to society.

Judge Urbina began establishing his reputation with his broad experience as an attorney in the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, in private practice specializing in commercial litigation, and as an associate professor at Howard University School of Law. Among Judge Urbina's achievements while on the bench was his leadership of efforts by the bar and community organizations to create the Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services, which for the first time institutionalized the practice of providing court interpreters for non-English speakers and the hearing-impaired.

The District of Columbia and its residents are particularly grateful for Judge Urbina's attention to our youth and for his work in developing the next generation of legal achievers by exposing D.C. high school students to the court system, as well as by teaching law while on the bench. Throughout his career, Judge Urbina has been invested in improving both the law that serves our community and the community where the law is observed.

Judge Urbina has now taken senior status on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, but he will continue to serve the city, the court, and the law in a multifaceted life and career that has been characterized by dedication and wisdom. Judge Urbina's career in the law has special meaning today particularly for Latinos, the fastest growing community in our country. The judge's roots in our Latino community make him a history-making role model particularly for a community that had no presence on either our local or federal courts before he paved the way on both. Yet, because of Judge Urbina's professionalism, excellence, character, and many contributions to the law and to the community, he has set a high bar as a lawyer, judge and distinguished citizen not only for lawyers, but for all who aspire to achieve in our city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Judge Ricardo M. Urbina for his accomplishments on the courts on which he has served and for his contribution to the law and to the residents of the District of Columbia.